RECREATION IN REMOTE NORTHERN MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

A Report on the

Remote Communities Recreation Conference

Thompson, Manitoba

March 2 and 3, 1989.

Manitoba
Culture, Heritage
and Recreation

Summary Report

Recreation in Remote Northern Manitoba Communities

prepared for:

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation

Author

Richard Hart
Regional Consultant
Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation
Thompson, Manitoba

Table of Contents

		Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Background	1
3.	Review of Conference	2
4.	Recreational Needs Identified	3
5.	Recommendations	4
	Recommendation 1	5
	Recommendation 2	6
	Recommendation 3	7
	Recommendation 4	8
6.	Conclusions	9
7.	Summary of Proceedings	10
8.	Conference Structure	10
9.	Question and Answer Forum	11
10.	Needs Identification	20
11.	Review of March 2 Proceedings	20
	A. Recreation Director Subsidies - Remote Equipment Grant - Recreation District Grant	20
	B. Cancellation of Community Development Assistance Program	21
	C. Skills Transfer Eligibility Criteria	21
	D. Nonprofit Incorporation	21
	E. Traditional Activities Funding	22
	F. University of Manitoba Research	22
	G. Priorizing Recreation as a Social Service	22
	H. Community Councils and Bands Working Together	23
	I. Manitoba Community Places / Other Departmental Programs	23
	J. Recognition of Unique Circumstances of Remote Communities	24
12.	Community Assessments	
	A. What are the Positive Aspects of your Community ?	24
	B. What are the Negative Aspects of your Community ?	25
	C. What Potential Resources Exist for your Community to Access ?	26
13.	Summary of Positive, Negative and Resources	27

		Page
14.	Recreation in Northern Remote Communities	28
	A. Who Looks After Recreation In Your Community ?	28
	B. How are Activities and Programs Selected ?	29
	C. What types of Activities are Take Place ?	29
	D. Looking at the Activity List, Who Takes Part and Who is Missed ?	30
15.	Recommendations on Departmental Grant Programs	30
	A. Remote Equipment Grant Program	30
	B. Public Events Sponsorship Program	31
	C. Skills Transfer Program	32
	D. Community Places Program	33
16.	General Recommendations/Comments	34
17.	Priorizations	35

Appendices

A.	Speech by Honourable B. Mitchelson	36
B.	Speech by Honourable J. Downey	46
C.	Presentation by J. Thorassie - Churchill Band -Tadoule Lake	51
D.	Presentation by R. George - Chemawawin Band - Easterville	53
E.	Norman Regional Sport Association - Sport Districts	55
F.	Conference Resolution and Signatures of Support	56
G.	Conference Evaluations Summary	59
H.	List of Participants	61
I.	Map of Manitoba	62
J.	Community Populations	63
K.	"Winnipeg Free Press" Article	65
L.	"Nickel Belt News" Article	66

1. INTRODUCTION

The Remote Communities Recreation Conference held March 2nd and 3rd, 1989 in Thompson was an attempt to help remote, northern Manitoba communities identify their recreational needs and to begin long-term development towards meeting those needs. For this conference, remote communities were identified as being those communities which are located within the boundaries of Northern Manitoba above the 53° parallel and which fall under the jurisdiction of either the Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or the Provincial Department of Native and Northern Affairs.

Participants for the conference were community leaders: chiefs, mayors, councillors, and recreation professionals and volunteers. The premise of the workshop was that there was a need to have community leaders identify the circumstances and recreational needs existing in their remote community. From this needs identification, strategies could be developed to address any problem areas or to meet certain needs in a meaningful way. The emphasis for discussion was placed largely on the issues the participants felt were important in order to develop effective recreation service and opportunities in their community.

2. BACKGROUND

There are forty-one remote communities in Northern Manitoba. They are:

1. Eighteen communities under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Native and Northern Affairs.
2. Twenty-three Indian Reserves under the jurisdiction of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Of this forty-one:

1. Seven community councils exist alone.
2. Ten reserves exist alone.
3. Nine reserves are adjacent to nine community councils.
4. One reserve is adjacent to a town.
5. Two reserves are adjacent to L.G.D.'s.

Thus, forty-one communities are located at 29 sites in Northern Manitoba. (See Appendix I).

These forty-one communities vary in population, access to other communities, and size of community infrastructure. They do, however, have many similarities in terms of: isolation from trade centres, cultural heritage, high unemployment, and high level of social problems. They are also lacking in recreation development and services.

The Remote Communities Recreation Conference was a forum for leaders from these communities to address and clarify issues that serve as barriers to recreation development. The desired outcome was to have the delegates articulate recommendations to improve recreation delivery at a municipal and provincial level. Using their recommendations, new strategies can be developed at the provincial government level to help facilitate recreation growth in remote communities.

The Norman Regional Office of Culture, Heritage and Recreation initiated the Recreation Conference for Remote Communities because of a concern that remote, northern communities were not developing their recreation potential. Any initiatives to improve this situation required a focusing on the realities that exist in the communities. This assessment of community needs was very important because it helped to ensure that future departmental initiatives address real needs, thereby making the most effective use of increasingly scarce resources. Any changes, however, to departmental thrusts to address the concerns of northern, remote Manitobans will have implications beyond Northern Manitoba because remote communities also exist in regions such as Eastman and Parkland. Thus, any changes to policies affecting remote communities will need to take these communities into account.

3. REVIEW OF CONFERENCE

A Summary of Proceedings was completed and forwarded to conference participants and local councils. This Summary has been attached to this document for review (starting at page 10).

Briefly, the community delegates participated in very good discussion sessions in which:

- Community situations were highlighted and discussed at a regional level.
- Participants and departmental facilitators underwent a learning process on recreation philosophies and values.
- Participant awareness was raised on the need for planned long-range strategies to address recreational needs.
- Recommendations were made by delegates to improve recreation delivery by municipal and provincial governments.
- Recommendations were made by delegates to improve their own community responsibilities regarding recreation.
- Delegates identified the unique circumstances that exist in remote communities.
- Delegates identified issues, barriers, and needs related to recreation delivery.
- Delegates identified the need for forums to communicate with other communities.
- Delegates recognized that cooperative initiatives will be needed for future success.

The conference format was designed to meet an essential goal of the community development process; that is, to enable people to work together, to build trust, and to identify common ground. It should be noted that there was initial suspicion on the part of the delegates concerning the motive of government attempting to learn more about remote communities. Establishing a climate of trust became easier once delegates recognized the intent, the need for development, and value of expressing needs through community self-study. This became the common ground for delegates and alleviated nonconstructive criticism. The process received the consent of the delegates and as a result, many key recommendations were put forth from the open discussion.

4. RECREATIONAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED

The conference delegates identified that their remote communities suffer many hardships and lack many of the essential services that others take for granted. Social problems and unemployment are in abundance while items such as water, sewer, housing, recreation facilities, discretionary dollars are lacking.

Delegates identified that recreation has not been a priority with local councils in the past because of factors such as:

- Recreation is not viewed as a priority by the levels of government that fund local councils i.e. Northern Affairs/Indian Affairs. The departments do not provide funds for recreation and they influence what community budget allocation priorities should be.

- There is a lack of recreational facilities in most remote communities.

- In most communities there is no one working full-time in recreation as there is in education, probation, health, alcohol treatment, etc. The strongest and most visible committees are often health committees, school committees, justice committees, etc. Community leaders are involved with these committees, not with recreation.

- There is a lack of awareness of the values of recreation. Recreation often means "sports" in communities. Recreation highlighted as a needed service and preventative tool has not been properly presented to community leaders.

- Residents of remote communities have limited exposure to recreation training and limited opportunities to utilize existing skilled people in community. There is a lack of financial assistance to start up a program in the area of recreation.

- Culture, Heritage and Recreation grant programs and criteria make many recreation grants nonapplicable to remote communities. Special consideration is not taken into account when dealing with the special problems these communities face.

- There have been few forums through which remote communities are kept in touch with other remotes in the area of recreation.

These factors indicated that leaders in remote communities require some direct influences to make recreation a priority. It also identified needs that have to be addressed at a community level.

The Conference produced recommendations from the delegates which reflected these problems and possible strategies to address them.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations put forth by conference delegates centered on four basic themes:
1. Recreation funding at a community level.
2. Departmental programs and guidelines.
3. Recreation awareness and promotion.
4. Follow-up to Conference.

These recommendations have been synthesized by the conference organizer and facilitator, Regional Consultant, Richard Hart. The recommendations are supported in principle by the Regional Director of Norman, Donna Henry as being appropriate solutions to address the recreation issues in remote communities raised by delegates. Many of the recommendations are minimal cost solutions requiring changes in departmental program delivery or grant criteria. The major recommendation, however, will, if implemented, involve a major reallocation of funds involving other departments.

Recommendation 1

That the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation initiate a process, involving other departments as required, to secure funding to train and hire recreation directors in remote, northern communities.

1. This recommendation is supported directly by the Role and Mission Statement of the Department and all of the operating principles. It is based on the recognition that northern communities have identified the need for recreation director funding and that they have identified this department as the lead agency.

2. That through the process identified in Recommendation 1, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation in conjunction with other provincial and federal government departments undertake the following actions:

   a) Initiate dialogues to coordinate recreation delivery departmentally.

   b) Initiate dialogues at the Deputy Minister level with the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Provincial Department of Native and Northern Affairs in the area of recreation.

   c) Initiate dialogues at the Deputy Minister level with other government departments such as Department of Education and Department of Family Services to explore mechanisms for resource sharing to ensure effective recreation delivery.

   d) Develop in conjunction with the Department of Education and its institutes such as the University of Manitoba and Keewatin Community College a comprehensive program package for recreation director and recreation commission training tailored to the needs of remote communities.

   e) Utilize research agreement with the University of Manitoba to initiate research on topics that influence recreation development in communities (e.g. community budget allocations, positive leisure pursuits in areas of high unemployment, direct and indirect government spending in communities).

   f) Develop a pilot project of recreation director funding in two communities (one Northern Affairs and one Indian Affairs). Project should explore impact, benefits, training needs, and responsibilities associated with hiring a recreation director.

Recommendation 2

That the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation establish a departmental team to review granting procedures and to develop new ones as needed, to address the issues raised by remote communities.

1. This recommendation is supported directly by the Role and Mission Statement of the Department and by its operating principles. The recommendation is based on the recognition that northern communities have identified the need for departmental programs to be more adaptable to the circumstances existing in a remote community situation in order to be effective. It is felt that recognition of conditions such as: isolation, travels costs, low level of discretionary community funds, ease of access into community, and community identified needs is required before departmental programs can be truly responsive to community needs.

2. That through the process identified in Recommendation 2 that the department undertake the following actions:

   a) Review existing grant programs to determine level of access by remote communities and/or effectiveness of program.

   b) Review the barriers that exist for remote communities when accessing departmental grants.

   c) Review the degree to which a community is remote and explore a tier system of funding based on community location and what existing services and facilities are in community. e.g. Tadoule Lake should receive more grant assistance than Grand Rapids based on degree of isolation.

   d) Develop strategies to address the barriers placed by the high travel and freight costs associated with remote communities hosting a public event, workshop, or program.

   e) Explore some form of "up front" funding upon approval of departmental grant to community. For example, 25% upon approval, 75% upon final report.

   f) Review what remote community activities/workshops/conferences are funded presently at a community level and identify the types of activities which are not funded.

g) Explore flexibility in granting procedures and adaptation of criteria to better respond to community needs. This will help ensure that the department is responding to activities and initiatives that the communities feel are important particularly those that reflect native culture.

h) That the department allow for carryover of grant approval or commitment of grant approval to the next fiscal year when special circumstances dictate.

i) That the department develop clear guidelines and responsibilities to encourage community councils and band councils to work jointly on facility and other grant proposals.

j) That the department reestablish the Community Development Assistance Program in order to respond to remote communities desire for flexibility, ease of access, and in increased leadership training eligibility in departmental programs.

k) Explore possibility of block funding to communities based on communities submitting a budget for planned expenditures in the area of recreation. The department would approve grant and forward monies upon approval. The communities would be responsible to ensure money is used properly as a condition for receiving assistance the following year.

Recommendation 3

That the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation initiate a recreation promotion program to increase awareness of the benefits of recreation at local government and community level.

1. This recommendation is supported directly by the Role and Mission Statement of the Department and all of the operating principles. It is based on the recognition that remote communities have identified that there is a lack of awareness on the values of recreation at the community level and there is a need for discussion forums in the area of recreation.

2. That through the process identified in Recommendation 3, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation undertake the following actions:

   a) Develop a presentation/training module highlighting recreation as an essential service for use in remote communities.

   b) Initiate research through the University of Manitoba on the subject of the impact recreation has on juvenile delinquency for presentation to remote, local councils and government departments.

   c) Provide forums for recreation information exchange that will be regional in scope.

   d) Establish a departmental team to address the needs of remote communities in the area of recreation and initiate strategies to ensure recreation becomes a priority for communities and government.

   d) Initiate dialogues with the Department of Education to include culture, heritage, and recreation activities/philosophies in school curriculums.

Recommendation 4

That the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation keep remote community delegates informed of any actions that result from the needs assessment conferences and provide an opportunity to meet again to continue the dialogue.

1. This recommendation is consistent with the Department's Role and Mission Statement and all of its operating principles. It is based on the recognition that remote communities have identified the need for definite follow-up and action to the needs assessment conference to ensure it was not an exercise in futility.

2. That through the process identified in Recommendation 4, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation undertake the following actions:

   a) Develop an action plan for long-term and short-term development for remote communities utilizing a departmental team.

   b) Initiate dialogues with communities, other provincial government departments, and federal government in the area of recreation for remote communities.

c) Review delegate recommendations put forth at the Remote Communities Conference and determine feasibility of implementing changes.

d) Reestablish regional newsletter system for disseminating community recreation information and news.

e) Sponsor a follow-up conference to provide a status report on the action plans to the original conference delegates. This should be targeted for April, 1990.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Remote, northern communities have made significant progress in all areas of community development over the years. Recreation service is one area which communities are recognizing as a potential area for needed growth.

Through the conference forum the participants have exposed themselves and their communities to close scrutiny and have clearly articulated the conditions, problems and concerns which affect them every day. It has been clearly demonstrated that these communities face many barriers and as a result, unequal access to recreation programs and service. In trying to address these barriers and inequities, the Department must be sensitive to the thoughts, views and recommendations put forth by the remote community leaders and respond accordingly. The message is clear; remote communities believe that recreation is essential to the development of healthful, quality lifestyles. Community leaders want to work with government to develop definite plans to meet their recreation needs.

MANITOBA CULTURE, HERITAGE & RECREATION
REMOTE RECREATION CONFERENCE

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 2 & 3, 1989 - THOMPSON

7. SUMMARY

The Remote Communities Recreation Conference was initiated to address the recreation concerns of northern Manitoba's remote communities. Specifically, the conference was designed to determine the needs of remote, northern communities and to develop strategies for meaningful recreation development in these communities utilizing recommendations from conference participants.

The following is a summary of proceedings from March 2nd - Thompson City Hall and March 3rd - Thompson St. Lawrence Hall.

8. CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The conference began with Elaine Karpick, Regional Consultant, Culture, Heritage & Recreation welcoming conference participants. Conference participants introduced themselves and provided some background as to their role in their community.

Richard Hart, Regional Consultant, Culture, Heritage and Recreation then explained that the purpose of the conference was to provide remote community leaders with the opportunity to provide input into the development of recreation development strategies at the community and governmental levels. The conference was presented as a problem solving process and a planning process. The conference was designed to focus on open and constructive discussion among conference participants on the issues that their communities face. (Since the conference was not designed to teach specific recreation theories or items, the agenda was not fixed and was subject to change by community participants.) Richard Hart closed by saying that the desired outcome for the conference was to identify the recreational needs of remote communities and identify ways recreation service can be improved. The conference was to serve as the start of a planning and consulting process to address the recreational needs of remote communities in a more meaningful way.

Elaine Karpick highlighted the March 3 workshop portion of the conference, explaining that participants would be looking at community situations and at roles of government and communities. The format for discussion at the workshop would be small group work with larger group discussions. The facilitator asked the participants to undertake a community assessment by answering the following questions:

1. What are the positive points/strengths of your community?
2. What are the negative points/weaknesses?
3. What resources (human, financial, facilities) are available in your community?

At this point, a brief break was arranged to allow participants to get settled for the Ministers' speeches and question/answer forum.

Donna Henry, Norman Regional Director of Culture, Heritage and Recreation introduced the guests seated at the head table: Bonnie Mitchelson, Minister of Culture, Heritage & Recreation; James Downey, Minister of Native and Northern Affairs; Tom Carson, Deputy Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation; David Tomasson, Deputy Minister of Native and Northern Affairs; Oliver Boulette, Assistant Deputy Minister of Native and Northern Affairs.

Donna Henry introduced the guest speakers, Bonnie Mitchelson and James Downey. Copies of their speeches are included in the proceedings (Appendix A and B). Following the speeches, a questions and answer forum took place.

9. QUESTION & ANSWER FORUM

Yolanda Ducharme - Cormorant

In talking about programs and service, I want to know what will be done for smaller communities such as mine? I don't want smaller communities forgotten in planning things.

Bonnie Mitchelson

This is precisely the reason we are undergoing this process of consultation. We hope communities of similar size can get together to discuss what is being done in their communities and others. From this, a determination of what the needs are can be done. Following that, a plan can be developed to address the needs of similar communities.

Bernard Wood - St. Theresa Point

Which Minister looks after Community Places? In regards to Community Places , some communities are limited or can lose grants for not meeting time limits for the program. This is a problem for communities that do not have all weather roads. If the winter road is gone before approval, the community must wait until next year to bring in materials. However, the program does not provide for carryover of funds.

Bonnie Mitchelson

You bring up some good points and will be considered in discussing any changes in guidelines. As Minister responsible for Community Places, I feel that special circumstances such as described can be cause for an appeal. A good and just reason would prevent any loss of grant for a community. However, you should make these concerns in writing so that they can be acted upon.

Bernard Wood

I also would like to know why St. Theresa was cut on a committed amount of money under Community Places. No longer $75,000 but $55,000. What is the ceiling for grants?

Jim Downey

I think you are talking about the fact that St. Theresa got cut by 25% in their grant. However, this cut was one that was given to every grant, it was an across the board cut.

David Tomasson

We have been in contact with the Chief in the past few weeks. We indicated that the concerns he raised, and also raised tonight, should be forwarded in writing to us. This is the only way they can be dealt with.

Louise Paddock - Island Lake Community

(To Bonnie Mitchelson)

I am representing George Huntington, our Mayor, who is ill and could not attend. I thank you for this invitation to meet tonight.

First, I understand there will be some cutbacks in recreation for northern communities. I am not sure where but, I would hate to see the Northern Water Safety Program end.

Our youth do not have facilities and if you have a restraint program, let us know what is under restraint.

Bonnie Mitchelson

We have discussed the Northern Water Safety Program extensively. Staff (Sam, Richard, Donna) have reassured us that N.W.S.P. is one of the most important recreation programs in the north.

It is not a program we are looking to cut. What we would like to see is more youth from the communities improve their training levels so that communities can have their own instructors who are registered and licenced.

We need to discuss how we can improve things so that occurs.

Tom Carson

Budget restraint is common in government. However, no department programs for northern Manitoba face any restraint.

We do have a problem with Northern Swim and it doesn't concern money. It concerns the fact that a skilled instructor comes in and then goes out again. We want to redesign it so that it can be of more long term benefit to communities.

Louise Paddock

Bravo! I hope you understand reserves and councils often work together with this program. I hope that if we do get that far that Northern Affairs will provide funding for employment.

Bonnie Mitchelson

We will be discussing how this will all work together with Jim Downey and staff. Hopefully, you can provide direction for restructuring the program or its resources.

Bernard Wood - St. Theresa Point

The biggest problem for remote communities is no funding for recreation directors. Can there be resources allocated to this? Also, how far is the province willing to go in federal jurisdiction in dealing with reserves?

Bonnie Mitchelson

There are limited resources in government. There has been discussion whether things like the Remote Equipment Grant and Rural Recreation District Grants are meeting needs today. These programs are getting old and maybe something else is needed.

As we meet, we need to discuss whether present programs are adequate or do we need new initiatives for remote northern communities. As a new government, we are trying to find answers to community concerns. Your input is important.

Jim Downey

There may be joint efforts to jointly employ recreation directors in communities. For example, band and community councils pooling resources, as happened in Berens River under Community Places for a recreation facility.

Brian Cromarty - Norway House

Federal government does not provide funding for recreation and can provincial government influence change.

Jim Downey

There is need for coordination and development for recreation. Ongoing negotiations are taking place with federal government. Perhaps, we can include recreation in these dialogues.

With limited resources throughout, perhaps, shifting priorities/resources from existing programs to new initiatives can be done. If we can get a little bit from here and a little bit from there, we should get what we need.

I would sooner see money spent on things done to prevent problems rather than spend money on things related to the legal system as a result of problems.

The message you state is coming through loud and clear and we will take back to our colleagues.

Joe Thorassie - Tadoule Lake

Our only recreation facility is an old house and we have 300 people. We have some chronic social problems, but, we don't have money to contribute to things like Community Places. How can this government help? Federal government gives us no dollars. As a matter of fact, our children go to a three room school with no recreation facilities. It seems more time is spent on proposals than doing. There is nothing to do, no jobs, no recreation, therefore, people turn to drugs.

*This presentation is included as Appendix C.

Bonnie Mitchelson

There is a volunteer component under Community Places for communities to use to access grant dollars. Perhaps, depending on the project, there are ways to utilize this area.

Jim Downey

There have been some federal dollars for some projects on reserves. We need to follow-up why certain communities such as Tadoule Lake have been unable to receive any. We are working to have federal government include some dollars to Community Places for reserve areas.

Don Godwin - Norway House

I feel that too much emphasis is on recreation not enough on culture and heritage. It has been stated recreation is a municipal responsibility, how can this be when our communities have to go to Northern Affairs and Indian Affairs for budgets. Also, a study on recreation can be done very capably by northerners - Northern Association of Community Councils, Manitoba Metis Federation, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. You don't need the University of Manitoba to come up to find out what needs exist. Northerners already know what the problems are.

Bonnie Mitchelson

The research by University of Manitoba is provincial in scope. The research is to go for all areas of the province. I hope that you would want to be a part of this process.

Jim Downey

Concerns dealing with the north are valid and are coming through clear. This is a start of the process to discuss your needs in an objective way. I am sure your concerns will be alleviated once you see what work results.

Bonnie Mitchelson

This is an attempt to begin addressing your concerns. We are presently developing a recreation policy, and we are planning an arts policy. Points you raise can be a part of the whole picture.

Leonard Nasecapow - Moose Lake

We've had a proposal for a youth wilderness camp for culture. We have had the proposal for four years with no funding. I want to learn about nonprofit incorporation in order to receive business donations.
Now if government is talking culture and health, is there any way Jim Downey can meet with us to discuss?

Jim Downey

I have met with Chief Jim Tabacco on another matter. This could be one of the things we could discuss. I have not seen the proposal, but, with further background we can better judge it.
If we can get it tonight, we can review it and meet with you and Jim at a later time to discuss.

Brian Cromarty - Norway House

Regarding Community Places, is there a chance to raise the ceiling and the fifty/fifty cost share split?

Bonnie Mitchelson

The guidelines will be the same for now. However, it is being reviewed and changes could occur for the next fiscal year.

David Tomasson

Northern Affairs is looking at a recreation program for their communities. Again, a joint venture with council and reserve could increase dollars to a community.
There have been instances where special options can occur.
Donna Stewart of Northern Affairs could help explain the options.
With review and this workshop, perhaps a change can be influenced.

Charlene Ducharme - Norway House

We are looking for assistance to send a youth to Water Safety Instructor II Training. We used to be able to use the Community Development Assistance Program but it was cut.

Bonnie Mitchelson

(Unfamiliar with the program, Donna Henry asked Richard Hart to comment on whether it was eligible under Skills Transfer.)

Richard Hart

Presently, the training is ineligible under Skills Transfer. However, a review is underway to see if it can be used for activities previously funded under Community Development Assistance. Community Development Assistance was a program administered by Norman staff.
You could use this forum to clarify what activities could be included under Skills Transfer while review is on.

Charlene Ducharme

There are no dollars, however, right now.

Bonnie Mitchelson

Will your community write to my office explaining the situation. I heard from Perry Roque that someone from Norway House was going to take the Water Safety Instructor II course. It is good to see that a youth is developing their skills that will benefit the community. That is what we would like to see more of under the program.

Ed Primrose - Nelson House

Back to Mr. Godwin's question. How will the University of Manitoba team research recreational needs in the North?

Bonnie Mitchelson

There will be a researcher coming up to the north who will be actively working with community groups to gather statistics and facts. It will not be someone sitting in Winnipeg researching northern needs.

Tom Carson

The University of Manitoba have the only recreation education program in western Canada. They have the most experience and they had some hand in the Northern Fly-In Sports Camps Program. Thus, they seem to know some of the benefits recreation programs can have in remote communities. They also have the skills to make good recommendations in discussing philosophies and delivery systems. They have the current research on recreation, however, we don't expect them to sit in Winnipeg.

Bob McClaverty - Thicket Portage

You keep talking policies, we are talking about grants and criteria. I hope we can discuss this...for example, the federal government has a book of 101 grants communities can apply. However only two are applicable to our communities. We feel that this is the same with provincial programs. They are not applicable to small remote communities.

For example, there are grants to build facilities. However, there is no money to operate, therefore no access for small communities.

Restraint is everywhere, but, it is especially hard on remotes.

For example, Frontier School is placing an onus on our community to support one of our kids who is on the volleyball team going to finals in Regina. They asked for $200.00. There should be a program for them to access because if we do it, we are told we are using funds indiscreetly. We do have fundraising in our community, we do have our events, we buy presents for all the kids each Christmas fundraised through recreation. We try to do the little things to better our community. However it is the little things that are extra that are lacking.

I don't see why Ministers like yourselves can't sit down together to jointly plan and allocate resources to maybe hire a recreation director. For example, sit down with Frontier to hire a person to work at the school teaching physical education part-time and in the community part-time in recreation.

Some dollars from Frontier, some from Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

I want to see this type of stuff investigated.

The North is always left out. I would like to see once Ministers come North first.

Bonnie Mitchelson

Very good points. It is precisely what we are trying to accomplish working together to address common concerns. That is what this is all about.
I want to discuss these type of recommendations at the cabinet. It may not only involve Education, it may be Employment Services, Health, etc.
Thank you for your comments.

Tom Carson

Please raise these type of issues when you meet tomorrow. However, there needs to be a sense of priorities when discussing things. You mentioned $200.00 a trip, there are many similar things happening each school year, a grant program to cover this would easily eat one million dollars per year.

Bob McClaverty

I am talking about the school system doing it to us, not any personal family stuff. The point I was trying to make as that I have concerns with the Department of Education doing this to us.

Tom Carson

I guess what I'm saying is to discuss what the best possible ways to utilize dollars are and to prevent waste of dollars. Give us a sense of what your feelings are.

Rod George - Easterville

I would like to make a presentation.*
We have a concern for our youth...relating our past history with forced relocation to an area of bedrock from our home which is now under water.
The good things are non-existent, young people have nothing to look forward to.
There are many social problems...
We feel we need things to improve our situation.
We have some simple needs in recreation.
There is nothing organized for young people.
There is a great need for recreation facilities in our community.
We are confident that this presentation will receive full consideration and help provide directions to help us provide recreation in our community.

*This presentation is included as Appendix D.

Jim Downey

Thank you for your well thought out presentation. Again, you mention quite clearly what you situation is and what should be done.

We will take a look at your presentation and do what we can do given our restrictions.

Like Bonnie and I mentioned, we also believe that the youth are our future.

Break for wine and cheese reception sponsored by the Northern Manitoba Recreation Association. This concluded the first day of the conference.

MANITOBA CULTURE, HERITAGE & RECREATION
REMOTE COMMUNITY RECREATION CONFERENCE
MARCH 3, 1989
ST. LAWRENCE HALL
THOMPSON, MANITOBA

10. NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss remote community situations and circumstances that exist. Through this discussion, needs and barriers for recreation development could be identified and an introduction of basic recreation philosophies could take place.

The workshop began with a discussion of the issues that arose at the Ministers/Participants' meeting on the evening of March 2. Using the Norman Regional Sport Association's district model for games competitions (Appendix E), participants were divided into numerous small groups. Each group contained representatives from communities that were in a similar geographical location. Discussion of topics were conducted in the small groups with reports presented to the larger group. The larger group discussions were used to show any similarities and/or differences between communities and districts.

11. REVIEW OF MARCH 2 PROCEEDINGS

Topics identified for discussion were:

A. Recreation Director Subsidies/Remote Equipment Grant - Recreation District Grant

This topic arose in a response to a question from Bernard Wood (St. Theresa Point) regarding allocating resources to communities to hire recreation directors. The Minister of Culture, Heritage & Recreation, Bonnie Mitchelson explained that programs are designed to fill a need. In determining where programs are needed, one also needs to determine where programs are no longer effective. Due to limited resources and changing needs, existing programs need to be reviewed to gauge their effectiveness.

The Minister explained that the Equipment Grant was a response to remote community concerns that equipment was needed to carry out programs in small, isolated communities. The Recreation District Grant was a response to rural southern centres desire to coordinate recreation delivery in centres located close together.

B. Cancellation of Community Development Assistance Program

The topic of Community Development Assistance came up in a response to a question from Charlene Ducharme (Norway House) regarding assistance to send a community youth to a Water Safety Instructor Level II Course. .

The Community Development Assistance Program was a flexible grant program administered at the Regional Office level which was utilized by communities for leadership training, organizational development, and new activities. The grant maximum was $500.00. Under this program, the Water Safety Instructor Level II Course would have been eligible.

Charlene pointed out that since its cancellation in June, 1988 there has been no grant program that communities can use for travel assistance for events such as the Water Safety Instructor Training.

Richard Hart (Culture, Heritage and Recreation) explained that a review of departmental programs is being done. It is expected that the Skills Transfer Program will cover those activities that were previously funded under Community Development Assistance, once the review is completed.

C. Skills Transfer Criteria For Events Eligibility

As mentioned in Section B, a review is underway to determine what activities should be funded under the Skills Transfer Program. The discussion regarding Skills Transfer eligibility arose from Charlene Ducharme's question regarding assistance to send a Norway House resident to Water Safety Instructor Training in Thompson.

Additional information on Skills Transfer can be found in Section 9.C.

D. Nonprofit Incorporation

Leonard Nasecapow discussed his proposal for a youth wilderness camp and mentioned he had no success finding government funding. He wanted to receive information on nonprofit incorporation in order to access business donations.

Elaine Karpick (Culture, Heritage and Recreation) asked the larger group if this was something they wished to discuss during the workshop. The majority of delegates felt that incorporation was not relevant to their community situation. The topic was determined to be one of individual interest and interested people were asked to contact Elaine for more information.

E. Traditional Activities Funding

Don Godwin raised the point that recreation can't be limited in scope and that one must also look at cultural and traditional activities. If a community wants to embark on certain cultural activities, they should be respected and supported.

In discussing traditional activities funding, the majority of delegates felt determination of what constitutes cultural, traditional, and heritage activities should rest with the communities. Assessments of cultural grants should not be done by bureaucrats living outside of the community who have little or no understanding of the native lifestyle.

The group recommended that funding should be available for the teaching of traditional life skills in native communities.

F. University of Manitoba Research

The Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Bonnie Mitchelson, announced during her speech that the province had signed a research agreement with the University of Manitoba to research the recreational needs of Manitobans..

Concerns were raised during the question and answer period on March 2nd by Don Godwin and Ed Primrose regarding the suitability of the University of Manitoba researching needs of remote communities. Their concerns reflected their views that remote communities would not be part of the process and that research on northerners should be done by northerners.

During the workshop discussion on March 3, there was unanimous agreement that University of Manitoba research team would not be able to adequately document and assess the needs of remote communities. There was a strong feeling that northern organizations such as Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Manitoba Metis Federation, Northern Association of Community Councils, or Northern Manitoba Recreation Association would be more effective. There was also a suggestion that a special task force on northern, remote community recreation be formed.

G. Priorizing Recreation As A Social Service

In questions raised by Brian Cromarty, Bernard Wood, and Bob McClaverty, the issue of priorizing recreation arose.

Brian Cromarty and Bernard Wood stated that the Department of Indian Affairs does not provide any funds for recreation to communities. Bob stated that Northern Affairs communities simply cannot afford to provide recreation service for their people.

All three delegates indicated that while most local councils recognize the values of recreation as a social service, their operational budgets from government (Indian Affairs/Northern Affairs) limit them on what they can provide for community recreation.

Brian Cromarty, Bernard Wood and Bob McClaverty agreed that Culture, Heritage and Recreation should be coordinating recreation delivery and ensuring that communities receive budgets for recreation.

On the issue of coordinated recreation delivery, Ministers and delegates were in accord. In discussing this on March 3, the delegates felt that there was need to have interdepartmental discussion at the ministerial level on coordinated delivery of recreation. It was suggested by the group that Culture, Heritage and Recreation work with Northern Affairs and Indian Affairs to ensure communities receive funding for recreation. On March 2, Ministers James Downey and Bonnie Mitchelson agreed that cooperation and resource sharing should be a focus in their ministries and should be included in dialogues with the federal government.

H. Community Councils and Bands Working Together

The benefits of bands and community councils working together were highlighted when Brian Cromarty and Bernard Wood asked questions regarding the maximum grant of $75,000.00 under Community Places.

In response to the questions, both Ministers explained how Berens River was able to double the grant maximum for a facility by having the community council and band work together on the project.

In the workshop discussion, there was agreement that bands and community councils could work together and should work together on projects. However, the delegates cautioned that clearly stated guidelines and procedures would need to be developed in order for it to work.

Other discussion centered on the fact that a lot of northern bands do not have an adjacent community council and vice versa. These communities would not have the option of working with an adjacent community.

I. Manitoba Community Places/Other Departmental Program Criteria

During the questions and answer forum between Ministers and delegates on March 2, concerns were raised frequently about program criteria. As a result of this, a review of departmental programs was scheduled for the workshop portion of the conference on March 3. This topic is addressed in Section 9.D.

J. Recognition of Unique Circumstances of Remote Communities

Many remote communities are small, very isolated, and without supports for recreation. This was made very clear to the Ministers during the March 2nd Question and Answer Forum.

The workshop delegates stressed that government grants and programs should be flexible to accommodate and recognize the special circumstances of remote communities, particularly levels of isolation.

12. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

The first portion of this workshop dealt with the positive and negative aspects of community life and a listing of potential resources.

A. What are the positive aspects of your community?

There were many responses; some were relevant to all the communities while others were relevant to only a few communities. For example, an arena was mentioned as being a positive aspect in one community. Unfortunately, only three communities in remote northern Manitoba have arenas. The responses were summarized as follows:

Responses (Positive Aspects)	Relevant to Communities	
	Most/All	Some/Few
Volunteer eagerness	X	
Organized school programs	X	
Traditional Life Skills Programs		X
Sports days (winter and summer)	X	
Winter carnivals	X	
Hunting and fishing	X	
Community togetherness	X	
Community exchanges	X	
High school		X
Fishing lodges		X
Sweat lodges		X
Summer festivals	X	
Arenas		X
Use of natural resources	X	
Fun activities (e.g. snowshoe, baseball)	X	
Youth council		X
Parent/teacher support of children's education	X	
A good ice rink	X	

(Positive Aspects)	Most/All	Some/Few
Opening of gym facility for public use	X	
Community hall	X	
Pool hall	X	
Nice camping area	X	
Beautiful scenery	X	
Good ambulance/fire department		X
5% of population good for volunteer workers	X	
*A lot of good complainers	X	

*Refers to people who don't volunteer.

B. What are the negative aspects of your communities?

The responses were as follows:

Responses	Relevant to Communities	
(Negative Aspects)	Most/All	Some/Few
Drug and alcohol abuse	X	
High suicide rate	X	
High level of unemployment	X	
High level of vandalism	X	
High level of theft (break and enters)	X	
Poor roads	X	
Poor dog control	X	
No skill development or training programs	X	
Inadequate Youth Services	X	
Lack of water and sewer services	X	
Limited fundraising potential	X	
Lack of communication between reserves and community councils		X
Isolation from other communities	X	
No all weather roads	X	
Low populations	X	
High level of social problems	X	
No funding for recreation directors	X	
No social services	X	
Inadequate housing	X	
High prices for essential items (e.g. food, gas, clothes, etc.)	X	
Lack of Awareness Programs	X	
Limited access to medical services		X
Poor commercial fishing		X
Limited female program (i.e. sports, arts, fitness, etc.)	X	
Lack of programs for Elders		X
Loss of identity/heritage		X
Lack of beaches/clean swimming areas		X
Cold winters hinder outside activities	X	

Responses (Negative Aspects)	Relevant to Communities Most/All	Some/Few
No supports in larger centres (cities) for people leaving remotes	X	
Communication outside community is limited	X	
Jurisdictional problems with federal/provincial governments	X	

C. What potential resources (including agencies and individuals) exist for your northern community to access?

Responses were as follows:

Responses (Resources)	Relevant to Communities Most/All	Some/Few
Native Alcohol/Drug Abuse Program worker (NNADAP)	X	
Awasis Agency worker (Child Care Agency)	X	
Nursing station	X	
Churches	X	
Welfare Opportunities Program	X	
Employment Outreach workers	X	
Probation workers	X	
Fine Option Program	X	
Youth court		X
Community Health Representatives (CHR's)	X	
Culture, Heritage & Recreation (CH&R)	X	
Tribal Councils	X	
Indian Affairs/Northern Affairs	X	
R.C.M.P.	X	
Local band or community constables	X	
Cultural awareness speakers (e.g. Bobby Woods - Sioux Elder)		X
Elders	X	
Recreation committees	X	
School committees	X	
BUNTEP (Teacher Education Program)		X
Community based education programs/schools		X
Communications (Local T.V. and Radio)	X	
Natural Resources	X	
Medical Services	X	
Solvent abuse committees		X
Networking committees (Social agency resource sharing)		X
Northern Flood Agreement		X
Alternative Funding Agreement		X
Personal care home		X
Community volunteers	X	

13. SUMMARY OF POSITIVE, NEGATIVE AND RESOURCES

The Section 6 material (Questions A, B & C) was discussed in small table groups and information shared with the larger group. These discussions allowed delegates to share community situations and identify areas of commonality. The discussions also showed that there were some differences in community resource availability by comparing: community council to community council, reserve to reserve, and reserve to community council.

Delegates identified many positive community recreational activities. Activities such as festivals, traditional skills, community exchanges, use of facilities, generated multiple responses in the small groups. The conference participants recommended that positive leisure pursuits such as these should be promoted and enhanced to lessen the impact of negative leisure pursuits.

In reviewing the negative aspects of community life, youth problems, social problems, lack of recreation facilities, lack of employment were mentioned most frequently in the small groups. The conference delegates recommended that recreation should be looked at as a preventative tool to social problems.

In reviewing the potential resources, participants identified many resources/agencies/people who are working in and trying to help in communities. It was observed, however, that many resources exist as "after the fact" treatment responses to certain social problems. These resources included alcohol and drug abuse workers, probation workers, solvent abuse committees, fine option workers. The delegates also observed that there are not many pro-active, preventative initiatives that highlight positive aspects of community life. Some communities do have some in place such as: cultural awareness speakers, networking committees, and community health workers.

Richard Hart (Culture, Heritage and Recreation) commented on this exercise and discussion by saying that recreation meant different things to different people. Richard reiterated a portion of the Honorable Bonnie Mitchelson's speech from the previous evening that dealt with the definition of recreation. The Minister stated that the department uses a definition that arose from the 1974 Interprovincial Recreation Minister's Conference. This definition states that recreation is "all those things a person or group chooses to do in order to make their leisure time more interesting, more enjoyable and more personally satisfying". Thus, recreation can be: culturally-oriented such as sweat lodge ceremonies; heritage-oriented such as local history clubs; recreational such as painting; sports such as hockey; or fitness-oriented such as aerobics. Carrying this further, recreation was seen to be important because people need opportunities to relieve the stresses of daily life and to feel they are contributing to personal and community growth.

In summary, the delegates felt that recreation is an essential service that can help alleviate or lessen the impact of negative behaviours or problems. The majority of participants felt that positive leisure opportunities must be provided for people in their communities to help prevent negative leisure time pursuits.

14. RECREATION IN NORTHERN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The initial workshop components dealt with community backgrounds in general to see if recreation has a role in community situations. The following workshop components centered specifically on recreation at the community level. As with the previous component, the discussion format was small group - large group responses to questions posed by the facilitators.

A. Who looks after recreation (activities and programming) in your communities?

Responses were as follows:
- youth councils/youth worker
- band councillor
- volunteers
- paid recreation director
- band administrator/council clerk
- schools
- no one

Only four communities have a paid recreation staff person. The other communities utilize volunteers to coordinate recreation; councillors, clerks, youth and volunteer committees. A large number of communities have no one coordinating recreation in their community. A majority of delegates felt that schools were responsible for recreation for children in the community.

During these discussions, some delegates stated that their volunteer committees or workers do not work on ongoing programming. Their work is limited to special events such as festivals. Also, some delegates felt that recreation directors are hired in some communities as a result of their larger populations and major recreation facility development i.e. recreation directors are needed when recreation facilities are present.

B. How are activities/programs selected?

This question was asked to determine how an event takes place in a community. Responses were as follows:
- community suggestions
- individual suggestions
- suggestions to committees, suggestions discussed suggestions carried out
- needs assessment on community

The majority of responses stated that activities are selected as a result of community suggestions. The majority of events, however, are yearly events or events that traditionally take place. Special activities are suggested and discussed to determine feasibility; usually determined at a council level.

C. What types of activities are carried out?

This question was asked to determine types of activities taking place and whether they were ongoing or special events. Ongoing events were defined as being coordinated activities that are part of a regular schedule on a weekly or monthly basis. Special events were events that were held on an occasional or annual basis. Responses were as follows:

Ongoing	Special Events
hockey	Northern Water Safety
dances	carnivals
bingos	fishing derby
school programs	Norman Games
volleyball	Fly-In Sports Camps
basketball	music festival
floor hockey	square dances
badminton	feasts
broomball	cultural awareness

Gymnasium sports, outdoor rink sports, and bingos are the main recreation activities in remote communities. The responses also highlighted special events at a community level such as feasts and carnivals, with some outside influences such as the Northern Water Safety Program and the Northern Fly-In Sports Camps.

The majority of participants responded that there are no ongoing activities taking place in arts, culture, heritage or fitness. In later discussion, some participants mentioned specific activities such as a planned heritage park and a gardening project.

D. Looking at the activity list, who takes part and who is missed?

This question was asked to determine what groups take part in the ongoing recreational activities at the community level.

This topic was addressed in a large group session. Age groups were listed and participants asked to identify activities relevant to particular age groups. The consensus was that schools take care of the children very well and that the other activities cater to young adult males. The groups who seemed to be missed are: seniors, women, and older teenagers.

In further discussion, some participants expressed the view that the school does a good job of offering children's program or activities in the winter, but, not much occurs in the summer.

Year round programs targetting specific age groups was identified as a requirement for a well-rounded recreation program. This was also highlighted when participants discussed the ages when children are most likely to begin to participate in negative behaviours.

This concluded the morning portion of the workshop.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROGRAMS

The afternoon portion of the workshop began with Sam Antila (Culture, Heritage and Recreation) briefly summarizing the morning and referring to the fact that people had expressed an interest in discussing some of Culture, Heritage and Recreation's grant programs to make recommendations. Sam passed out copies of the Remote Equipment Grant, Public Events Sponsorship, Skills Transfer, and Community Places Grant Programs. These have been the most used by communities in the past. The following has been quoted directly from delegate's responses (some responses required answers from facilitator - denoted by *):

A. Equipment Grant Recommendations/Comments

Culture, Heritage and Recreation should not overrule local decision on type of equipment purchased. At the very least, Culture, Heritage & Recreation should provide a list of items not eligible for purchase through this grant.

It takes too long to get the money. The payment of money should be expedited to a month.

Communities don't receive money until AFTER equipment purchased and receipt submitted. Communities wait for grant. This can be a burden on communities where $800.00 is a lot of money. The recommendation is to have communities show what is required and get the funding up front. If a misuse of funds occurs, the community will not be eligible for the grant the next year.

The amount of grant is too small. Recommend a grant of $1,500.00 per year.

Freight charges should be an allowable expense above and beyond the amount of the grant. Freight charges are currently allowed, however, they are included in the $800.00 grant to communities e.g. actual equipment bought may be $600.00 with $200.00 in freight charges. This is felt to penalize smaller, very remote communities.

There is usually no place to store community equipment. Recommend that if community wishes to make Community Places application for facility that storage areas be allowed as part of application.

You must spend money to get money. If no money, don't bother! Recommendation follows up-front funding mentioned earlier. Also, special consideration must be given to very isolated communities e.g. freight charges.

Changes in criteria should be done in conjunction with community groups. This is to ensure criteria will be reasonable e.g. time-frames.

*Eliminate population criteria. Facilitator's response - This criteria does not exist under this program.

B. Public Events Sponsorship Program
Recommendations/comments

Maximum grant of $1,100.00 is too low due to the high travel costs. Recommend a percentage grant of fee plus 100 percent travel for grant guideline.

Multiple responses singled out travel costs as the main barrier to hosting of public events.

Need some up-front funding. Certain percentage on approval, remainder on final report.

Time frame for approval is long. Perhaps, verbal commitment before event takes place.

Guidelines and criteria should be adaptable to northern remote communities on what constitutes a public or cultural event. For example, a community moose hunt and feast is both traditional and a public event.

*There was a question regarding the sixty day time frame for applications and whether an application could be refused for not meeting. - The guideline was explained as being a way to ensure a community receives their approval in advance of an event and that it was not rigidly enforced. However, an application has to be received before an event takes place to receive approval.

*Availability of funds. To date no applications have been refused due to a lack of funds.

C. Skills Transfer Recommendations/Comments

There is no funding available for equipment or program costs incurred when local skilled volunteers put on workshops in their community. i.e. The program covers instructor fees and travel costs for instructor, but, there is no funding for a locally developed program using local people as instructors. These instructors are usually volunteers.

There are many activities which do not seem to be covered by Skills Transfer i.e. Water Safety Instructor Training, traditional life skills.

There needs to be flexibility in determining which activities will be funded when it comes to volunteers developing a skill to take back to the community.

Community Development Assistance was a good program in terms of being flexible in terms of its leadership development criteria. It seemed to cover areas missed by Skills Transfer. Also, the process to access was quicker and easier.

There should be a component where funding would be available to newly trained people to use their training in their community.

Funding for out of province resource people/training should be eligible. In terms of instructors, the percentage fee and travel assistance available should be higher.

There is no "up front" funding under the program. There should be some percentage upon approval and remainder upon final report.

Problem with a lack of information i.e. resource list of potential instructors, workshops available, etc. Recommend department provide a list to communities.

Communities not aware of program. This was felt to be a communication problem between recreation contacts and general community. However, consultants should try to spread word further.

D. Community Places Program Recommendations/Comments

The percentage cost-shared under Community Places is unrealistic i.e. 50/50 is too high. One suggestion is to look at 75/25 split for remote communities.

Communities should be assessed on how easy or hard the level of access is into the community. Also, what is existing in term of facilities should also be a consideration.

There should be some "up-front" monies involved. For example, 25% of grant upon approval should be forwarded to communities.

There should be allowances for communities to carryover a grant until the next fiscal year if needed. The smaller communities receive the bulk of their freight on winter roads during a six week period. The program should be flexible in the project time frame if freight could not get in until the next year.

Delete the $75,000.00 ceiling and leave open. This provides more flexibility in the type of projects undertaken.

Mechanisms for reimbursement need some changes. It is a lot of work to claim grant by sending receipts as costs are incurred.

Other provincial government agencies should be utilized. For example, Limestone Training could teach skills to workers on projects or build roads to new facility sites using training monies.

There should be allowances to carryover unexpended monies. For example, if project completed for less monies, put into another project within guidelines set.

Approvals should be to next fiscal year, if required.

Volunteer labour should be a portion of 50%.

In addition to providing recommendations to the department's grants, table groups also had the opportunity to make general recommendations regarding recreation delivery in their community.

16. General Recommendations/Comments

A. The following are general recommendations.

Recreation director positions need to be developed for all northern, remote communities to address the recreation and social needs that are causing hardships. There is a need to be creative in using: cost-sharing ventures, governmental resource sharing, and making recreation a priority.

Funding for programs should be "up front" rather than "bill back".

Needs to be more awareness activities in communities regarding recreation.

Needs to be a recognition and commitment by local government to a recreation body with a specific mandate to deliver recreation. In addition, provincial and federal governments need to support local government in this commitment.

There should be a special task force on recreation in northern remote communities. This is a response to the planned needs assessment by the University of Manitoba. It is felt the job could be done better by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Manitoba Metis Federation or the Northern Manitoba Recreation Association .

Educational systems should be teaching recreation/culture/heritage in their curriculums. There is a need to start young.

Promotion of reserves and community councils to work together is good. However, clear cut guidelines need to be developed.

Governments need to work together to make recreation a priority and enable communities to start things.

Need to recognize the special needs and circumstances of remote communities. Any grants or programs should be flexible to accommodate their very remote status in comparison to other communities.

There has to be follow-up to the workshop.

B. The greatest desire of participants was definitely to have recreation director positions in their community.

One recommendation read:
We recommend that all remote communities are provided with a sufficient amount of funding (based on location) to hire a recreation director on a full time basis. ($20,000?)
In addition, to provide a budget to carryout recreation activities in the amount of $5,000.00.

The justification is that by providing a recreation director in the community, a service will be provided that will occupy children, teenagers, adults, and seniors on their unobligated time. Today in northern Manitoba, there is anti-social behaviours e.g. alcohol and drug abuse that are symptoms of a problem. The problem is that these people are provided with nothing to do on their unobligated time.

After this discussion, an attempt was made to priorize recommendations.

17. Priorizations

The number one priority was the hiring of recreation directors, followed by flexibility in grant disbursement and criterias. The general feeling, however, was that priorizing all recommendations was wasteful because of time constraints and that many of the recommendations could be implemented together.

The participants felt they could stand behind a resolution presented earlier by a table group.

The resolution with signatures is attached as Appendix F.

At this point, the workshop came to an end and evaluations completed. This summary is attached as Appendix G.

Appendix A

SPEAKING NOTES

HONOURABLE BONNIE MITCHELSON, MINISTER

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE

FOR REMOTE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

THOMPSON CITY HALL

8 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1989

HELLO! AND THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS EVENING. I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ALL ARE AND I SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING THE TIME TO TRAVEL HERE TONIGHT.

THE FACT THAT SO MANY ARE HERE TONIGHT IN THOMPSON SHOWS THAT WE ALL SEE A NEED TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.

YOU, AS COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE MANY CONCERNS. UNEMPLOYMENT, SAFE WATER SUPPLIES, SEWAGE TREATMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND POLICING ARE JUST A FEW.

SO, HOW DOES OR HOW <u>CAN</u> RECREATION FIT INTO ALL THIS?

RECREATION HAS BEEN DEFINED AS "ALL THOSE THINGS THAT A PERSON CHOOSES TO DO TO MAKE LEISURE TIME MORE INTERESTING, MORE ENJOYABLE, AND PERSONALLY SATISFYING". BUT, SIMPLY PUT, RECREATION IS PUTTING YOUR FREE TIME TO GOOD USE.

IT'S TIME TO STOP THINKING ONLY OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHEN WE TALK ABOUT RECREATION. WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES WHO NEED TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES.

PEOPLE HAVE A NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE. AND, WE CAN USE RECREATION TO HELP PEOPLE ENJOY A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

TO GO A STEP FURTHER, EVERY PERSON PARTICIPATES IN ONE FORM OF RECREATION OR ANOTHER. SOME PEOPLE SQUARE DANCE, OTHERS WATCH MOVIES. FOR SOME PEOPLE, FISHING IS A FORM OF RECREATION, WHILE OTHERS CARVE SOAPSTONE.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ALL PEOPLE USE THEIR FREE TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES. WE'RE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF DELINQUENCY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. OUR CHILDREN WILL EITHER PUT THEIR ENERGIES INTO POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ACTIVITIES.

RECREATION CAN BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN PROMOTING ACTIVITIES THAT ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. IT CAN HELP TO PREVENT PROBLEMS.

I MUST ADMIT THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, MY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR COMMUNITIES IS LIMITED. BUT, I WELCOME THIS CHANCE TO HAVE YOU BROADEN MY HORIZONS.

I DO KNOW THAT THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN MANITOBA HAVE BEEN HOME TO SOME OF THE MOST CREATIVE AND ATHLETIC PEOPLE IN OUR PROVINCE. THE REGIONAL JURIED ART SHOW AND THE NORMAN REGIONAL GAMES, SHOW CONSISTENT, QUALITY PARTICIPATION FROM SMALLER COMMUNITIES THAT CAN'T BE MATCHED BY LARGER CENTRES.

MUCH OF THIS SUCCESS IS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS. AND, I WOULD BE REMISS IN TALKING ABOUT RECREATION WITHOUT MENTIONING THE TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE VOLUNTEERS HAVE IN A COMMUNITY.

BUT, VOLUNTEERS NEED THE BACKING OF COMMUNITY LEADERS, LIKE YOU, IF THEY ARE TO FEEL THEY ARE PROVIDING A WORTHWHILE SERVICE.

WE SEE THE VALUE OF RECREATION IN MANY COMMUNITIES NOW. HOWEVER, MANY CHALLENGES FACE US AS WE PLAN DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER.

THE SUCCESS OF ANY RECREATION PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE THE COMBINED EFFORT OF INDIVIDUALS, ALL COMMUNITIES AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT AND THE FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP IS TO HEAR FROM YOU, ON WHETHER WHAT'S IN PLACE NOW IS WORKING. I NEED TO HEAR YOUR COMMUNITIES' NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.

BUT, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO FIND THEM.

MY GOVERNMENT IS DEVELOPING A RECREATION POLICY FOR MANITOBA. AND, IT WILL BE THE BASIS OF MY DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY ARE:

ONE. THAT RECREATION PROMOTES HEALTHIER, MORE PRODUCTIVE LIFESTYLES.

AND, TWO. LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR RESIDENTS -- FROM THE YOUNG TO THE OLD.

A SHORT TIME AGO PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE HELD TO GET INPUT INTO THE CONTENT OF THE RECREATION POLICY STATEMENT. BUT I FOUND THAT THESE MEETINGS WERE ONLY HELD IN MANITOBA'S MAJOR POPULATION CENTRES. THE PROCESS DIDN'T PROVIDE SMALLER COMMUNITIES WITH MUCH OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL GOVERNMENT ABOUT THEIR NEEDS.

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THIS MEETING.

WHEN WE ANNOUNCE THE POLICY, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE ADDRESSED THE CONCERNS THAT YOU'VE PUT FORWARD.

WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TO MEET MANITOBA'S FUTURE NEEDS. LAST WEEK I SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA TO RESEARCH THE PROVINCE'S SPECIFIC RECREATION NEEDS.

WITH THIS AGREEMENT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, MANITOBA CAN ASSESS OUR <u>OWN</u> NEEDS FROM OUR <u>OWN</u> PERSPECTIVE.

THE FIRST PROJECT WILL LOOK AT RECREATION DELIVERY IN REMOTE AREAS OF MANITOBA.

THE MORE PEOPLE I MEET, THE STRONGER IS MY COMMITMENT TO THE BELIEF THAT COMMUNITY NEEDS ARE BEST EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT. ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE LEADERS AMONG THEIR YOUTH. THOSE LEADERS WILL LEAD WHETHER TOWARD POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR.

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THAT.

WE'VE BEGUN A PROCESS WITHIN GOVERNMENT TO WORK TOGETHER AND COORDINATE SERVICES BETTER. NOW WE'RE EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO YOU TO WORK WITH US.

THANK YOU.

Appendix B

SPEECH BY
THE HONORABLE JAMES DOWNEY

THANK YOU TO MY COLLEAGUE, BONNIE MITCHELSON, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK MY STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENT STAFF FOR ASSISTING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS EVENT, THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR JOBS AS MINISTERS EASIER IN MEETING COMMUNITY PEOPLE AND DOING THE DAY TO DAY WORK WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT.

WE HAVE OLIVER BOULETTE HERE IN THOMPSON, MY DEPUTY DAVID TOMASSON IS HERE TONIGHT, AS IS DONNA STEWART WHO IS WORKING IN A RECREATION AREA, LLOYD McKINNEY, PERCY WILLIAMS AND NOEL SIMMONDS AS WELL AS MANY OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE.

IT IS A GOOD SIGN TO SEE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR GOVERNMENT SPEND THEIR EVENINGS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE THE REAL SOLDIERS WHO DO THE WORK WHILE US MINISTERS GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU ABOUT ALL THE GOOD THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN.

I HAVE TO TELL YOU A BRIEF STORY FIRST. I WAS SPEAKING TO SOME PEOPLE ONE NIGHT WHEN I ASKED IF EVERYONE COULD HEAR ME. ONE PERSON IN THE BACK SAID THEY COULDN'T. A PERSON IN THE FRONT IMMEDIATELY STOOD UP AND SAID "I CAN HEAR CLEARLY AND I'LL TRADE YOU PLACES". SO IF ANYONE IN THE BACK CAN'T HEAR ME, REMEMBER THERE IS PROBABLY SOMEONE IN THE FRONT WHO WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE PLACES.

IT IS ALWAYS A PRIVILEGE TO JOIN MY COLLEAGUE, BONNIE MITCHELSON AND TO BRING GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF PREMIER FILMON, WHO, LIKE US, IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE NORTH AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR PROVINCE. FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TRULY THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

I HAVE TO BE VERY HONEST WITH YOU PEOPLE, AND BONNIE; I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED MY OPPORTUNITY AS MINISTER OF NORTHERN AND NATIVE AFFAIRS TO MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND LOOKING AT THE DESIRE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LEADERSHIP TO CORRECT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE HAVING. WHETHER IT THE DIFFICULTY OR FRUSTRATIONS THESE YOUNG PEOPLE FACE OR THE PROBLEM OF ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE. IT IS THIS DESIRE TO CORRECT THESE TYPE OF THINGS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH THAT MAKE THIS A GREAT PROVINCE AND GREAT COUNTRY.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIRECTION BONNIE AND I FEEL WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU GO, I CAN ASSURE THAT THIS IS THE ENVIRONMENT WE WANT TO HELP CREATE.

WE ARE AND HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A COUPLE OF ACTIVITIES TOGETHER. BONNIE AND I RECENTLY VISITED THE COMMUNITY OF BERENS RIVER WHERE WE HAVE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BAND AND COMMUNITY WORKING JOINTLY TO DEVELOP A CLOSED IN FACILITY. ONE OF THE POINTS THAT WAS MADE CLEAR WAS THAT A

YEAR AGO THE YOUNG PEOPLE THERE WERE ANXIOUS TO LEARN AND PLAY HOCKEY. THEY HAD WAYNE BABYCH THERE TO HELP DO A HOCKEY SCHOOL. LLOYD AND I MET WITH WAYNE BABYCH YESTERDAY AND WAYNE COMMENTED ON HOW COMMITTED THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE BECAUSE THEY WERE OUT IN 40 BELOW WEATHER TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY HOCKEY ON THEIR OPEN AIR RINK.

SO, THE COMMITMENT IS THERE BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP. THIS DOES NOT MEAN BUILDING ELABORATE AND EXPENSIVE FACILITIES, BUT, TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE A START WHEN IT COMES TO THE KINDS OF EXPENDITURES THAT WILL HELP.

WE, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN SOCIETY, HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES AS FAR AS MONIES ARE CONCERNED, BUT, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH YOUR INPUT AND DIRECTION WE CAN MAKE THE BEST USE OF THOSE DOLLARS AND THOSE MEANS AVAILABLE TO US.

IT ISN'T OUR MONEY, IT IS YOUR MONEY. IT'S THE TAXPAYERS MONEY AND WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT IS USED WISELY AND FAIRLY IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT.

ANOTHER PHILOSOPHY THAT I HAVE, AND IT'S SOMETHING I CLEARLY UNDERSTAND, IS THAT YOUR COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH ARE NOT UNLIKE EVERYONE ELSE; LIKE BONNIE MITCHELSON WHO LIVES IN

WINNIPEG OR LIKE MYSELF WHO LIVES IN RURAL MANITOBA, THAT NUMBER ONE WE LIKE TO HAVE A GOOD HOME. A GOOD HOME PROVIDES YOU WITH A GOOD FAMILY AND A GOOD FAMILY LIFE. FROM THAT GOOD FAMILY LIFE, YOU HAVE GOOD COMMUNITIES, A GOOD PROVINCE AND A COUNTRY WE ARE PROUD OF.

YOU NEED THAT GOOD BASE OF A GOOD HOME, GOOD FAMILY AND GOOD COMMUNITY. YOU WORK TOGETHER AND PLAY TOGETHER WELL AND HELP MAKE THIS COUNTRY STRONG.

BONNIE, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL WORK TOGETHER AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE TO PUT THE MONEY FORWARD AND WE WILL HELP YOU SPEND IT. THAT'S ONE COMMITMENT FROM OUR DEPARTMENT.

I DO NOT INTEND TO SPEAK LONG TONIGHT AS I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO HEAR FROM YOU THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IT IS THAT KIND OF DIRECTION THAT WE MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH BUT WE WILL AT LEAST TRY TO SEE YOUR SIDE OF IT. WE HOPE TO HAVE FAIR, HONEST AND STRAIGHT FORWARD DISCUSSION ON ISSUES.

I KNOW THAT THE LEADERSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, I SAY THIS MOST SINCERELY, ARE CONCERNED AND WANT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED FOR YOUTH THROUGH RECREATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. I THINK THAT GOOD RECREATION CAN HELP MOTIVATE PEOPLE FOR INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND GIVE THEM AN ATTITUDE IN LIFE THAT WILL ADD TO THEIR FUTURE LIFESTYLE.

SO, I THANK YOU BONNIE FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.

I DID HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL TODAY AND MEET OTHER COMMUNITIES AND OTHER PEOPLE. I CONTINUE TO DO THIS WITH DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT TO TRY AND MAKE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES HERE AS ELSEWHERE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR CONFERENCE. MY DEPARTMENT STAFF ARE HERE TO HELP IN ANY WAY THEY CAN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE TOUGHER THEY GET, THE MORE I WILL REFER THEM TO BONNIE MITCHELSON.

I'LL END WITH THAT AND THANK YOU.

APPENDIX C

My name is Joe Thorassie. I would like to thank the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation for giving me the opportunity to make this presentation to the Minister, on behalf of my community - Tadoule Lake, Manitoba.

For those of you who have never heard of my home community, I will first of all give you a brief history of the people of Tadoule Lake. We are called the "Sayisi Dene" which translates "people of the East". We are the most eastern band of Athapascan or Chipewyan people. We are remnants of a once great and numerous tribe.

Our current population in Tadoule Lake is approximately three hundred , with a band list of 475 people. The community has been in existence since 1973, where we moved to from Churchill. Although the community has been in existence for sixteen years, it lacks a sufficient community centre. We all left Churchill with heavy hearts and very confused. You are probably aware of the hardships and destruction, that was part of our every day life in Churchill. At the time when the community had to pull together upon arriving in Tadoule, and even to this day, they lacked the proper facilities in which they could all be... to rebuild the "family atmosphere" that the people need in order to survive as a group.

To this day, there is no solid unit in the people because of the life that we lived in Churchill. There was, and still is an urgent need for healing - spiritually, mentally and physically. There was then, and there still is a need for re-education.

We are trying to deal with a chronic drug and alcohol problem. We are also trying to retain what bits and fragments of our culture that we have left.

At the present time, and for the past fifteen years, we make do with a converted house which measures 24 x 36. If you can imagine 250 or 300 people in a house that small, its just not possible.

We have a three room school with an enrollment of about seventy children. They too, have no source of recreation, except what they can find outside. And without this, these children are turning to drugs as a means to pass their time in these long winter months.

The Tadoule Lake Band has no economic base with very few permanent jobs, we are living in a welfare state, provided for by the D.I.A. So we really can't afford the cost sharing projects that are run by this department i.e. Community Places.

The thing that I'm asking is how can this government, this department, help us try to rebuild ourselves up again.

Appendix D

I am glad to have the chance today to present to this meeting the concerns which we have for the young people of Easterville. In the early 1960's our community was moved from Chemahawin (located on the Saskatchewan River, where it flows into Cedar Lake) to our present location at Easterville, on the south shore of Cedar Lake. The move took place because of the building of the Hydro Dam at Grand Rapids. Much of the area in which we lived has now been flooded. One of our graveyards is completely under the water of Cedar Lake. The people of our community know that being forced to move has been very bad for us. We have lost areas where we used to be able to trap and hunt. Cedar Lake itself is full of rotting trees and logs which damage our fishing nets and boats. Many of the good things which we thought we would have, we do not have, like plumbing and electric heat for every house. The community of Easterville is built on solid rock, making it difficult to have gardens or even to dig a hole for an outdoor toilet.

Our move from Chemahawin to Easterville has hurt us very deeply. Our people no longer seem to care about what happens to them. The young people do not feel that they have much to which they can look forward. In our community there is a lot of alcohol abuse and drug abuse. Children are often neglected because of this. We know that we have lost a great deal and we realize what our problems are.

We also know that we want our community to be better. We know that we <u>should</u> and <u>can</u> help our children and young people. For this reason we feel that we need to provide recreation for them. At present in Easterville there is simply a ball diamond on the Reserve and an outdoor rink (newly completed only this winter) in the Metis community. The children sometimes skate inside an unused building which has no lights and is only partially flooded. Many of the young people spend much of their time at the pool hall playing video games. Most of them lack equipment for skating, playing hockey, or playing baseball. There are <u>no</u> organized hockey teams or baseball teams. Apart from the pool hall and the Anglican Mission House, there are few places for our young people to go. As a result, they are often in trouble since they feel bored and frustrated.

.../2

We feel that there is a great need for more recreation facilities in our community. We are asking for help in providing these for our young people and for suggestions about what direction we should follow. We offer this brief report, confident in the interest and support of this meeting, and confident also in the power of God our Father to bless, guide and protect us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rod. George

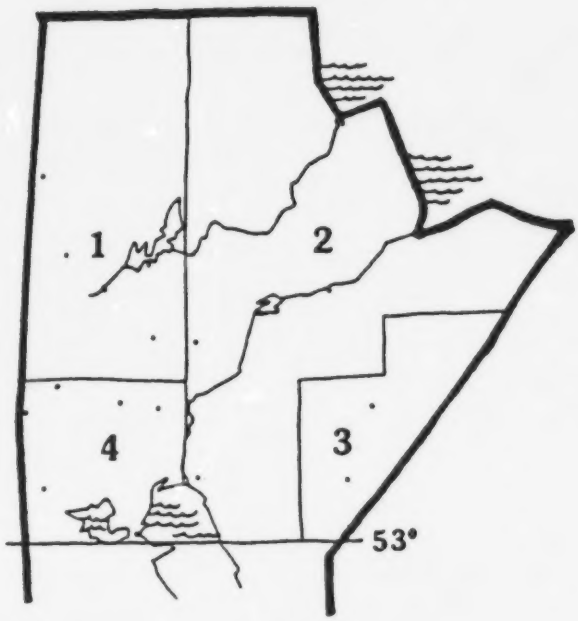
Rod George
Band Councillor
Chemahawin Band

RG/jp

Appendix E

NORMAN REGIONAL SPORT ASSOCIATION

Norman Districts



1. *Lac Brochet*
   Tadoule Lake
   Brochet
   Lynn Lake
   Pukatawagan
   Leaf Rapids
   Granville Lake
   South Indian Lake
   Nelson House

2. *Churchill*
   Fox Lake
   Split Lake
   Ilford
   Gillam
   Thompson
   York Landing
   Pikwitonei
   Thicket Portage
   Wabowden
   Cross Lake
   Norway House
   Warren's Landing

3. *Shamattawa*
   Oxford House
   God's Lake Narrows
   Wasasamach
   Red Sucker Lake
   St. Theresa Pt.
   Garden Hill
   Stevenson Island
   God's River

4. *Snow Lake*
   Herb Lake
   Wekusko
   Sheridan
   Flin Flon
   Cranberry Portage
   Wanless
   Cormorant
   Youngs Point
   Moose Lake
   Big Eddy
   Umperville
   The Pas
   Grand Rapids
   The Pas Reserve

APPENDIX F

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation has the mandate to preserve and enhance culture, heritage, and recreation activities within northern remote communities.

And whereas, the northern remote communities have limited resources (financial, material and human) to initiate and implement the necessary programs that are essential to the development of our "remote" communities.

And whereas, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation have failed to meet these essential needs to promote and enhance our community development.

Therefore, be it resolved that Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation guidelines and criteria be more adaptable to northern remote communities.

And also therefore be it resolved that the finances for these programs should be up front rather than bill backs.

And also be it resolved that recreation director position be developed in all northern remote communities to address the recreation and social needs (drugs and alcohol abuse) that are causing hardships in our communities.

Moved by Bob McClaverty - Thicket Portage, seconded by Brian Cromarty - Norway House.

A show of hands indicated unanimous agreement with conference participants.

A sheet of paper was passed in which participants could sign in support. This is included as Attachment Number 1.

ATTACHMENT #1

NAME (PRINT)	COMMUNITY	SIGNATURE
BRENDA MARTIN	MOOSE LAKE COMMUNITY	Brenda Martin
SELINA ARTHURSON	GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY	Selina Arthurson
LEONARD NASEKAPOW	MOOSE LAKE BAND	Leonard Nasekapow
ARNOLD BALLANTYNE	GRAND RAPIDS BAND	Arnold Ballantyne
LLEWELYNNE MOODIE	THE PAS RESERVE	Llewelynne Moodie
BERNARD WOOD	ST. THERESA POINT	Bernard Wood
RONNIE MONIAS	GARDEN HILL	
Patti Griffith	STEVENSON ISLAND	Patti Griffith
~~Lloyd Easter~~ LLOYD EASTER	MOOSE LAKE BAND	Lloyd Easter
PAUL WEENUSK	OXFORD HOUSE BAND	Paul Weenusk
MARGARET N. BEARDY	SPLIT LAKE BAND	Margaret N. Beardy
DION MCIVOR	CROSS LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Dion McIvor
DON GODWIN (MAYOR)	NORWAY HOUSE COUNCIL	Don Godwin
JOE DUVALL	NELSON HOUSE COMMUNITY	Joe Duvall
GEORGE BEARDY	YORK LANDING	George Beardy
ED PRIMROSE	NELSON HOUSE	Ed Primrose
JACK DYSART	South Indian Lake,	Jack Dysart
Claude Mackenzie	Granville Lake	Claude Mackenzie
CELESTIN THORASSIE	TADOULE LAKE	Celestin Thorassie
JOE THORASSIE	TADOULE LAKE	Joe Thorassie
George MacKenzie	Granville Lake	George MacKenzie
DAVE LINKLATER	South Indian Lake	Dave Linklater
VICTOR SPENCE	Split Lake. MB	Victor Spence
George Ponask Councillor	York Landing MB.	George Ponask
LOUISE PADDOCK Councillor	Shamattawa Island	Louise Paddock
CHARLENE J. DUCHARME - REC. DIR	NORWAY [redacted] COUNTY	Charlene J. Ducharme
Brian CROMARTY	NORWAY HOUSE	Brian Cromarty
Bob. McCleverty	THICKET PORTAGE	Bob McCleverty
CYRIL PERRY	SHERRIDON, MAN.	Cyril Perry

NAME	COMMUNITY	SIGNATURE
STEVE WOOD	GARDEN HILL	Steve Wood
Fabian McDougall	St Theresa Point	Fabian McDougall
ANITA BURTON	GOD'S NARROWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Anita Burton
Tony Wegarnick	Oxford House, MAN	
KEVIN BEARDY	GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION	Kevin Beardy
SARAH COOK	GRAND RAPIDS	Sarah Cook
Yolanda Ducharme	Cormorant	Yolanda Ducharme
John Campbell	Moose Lake	John Campbell

APPENDIX G

EVALUATION RESPONSES

1. What benefits do you feel were gained by attending this conference?
   - good gathering of band and council representatives
   - good discussion (2)
   - learning experience (4)
   - good forum to share concerns
   - good exposure to how other communities facing problems
   - hearing remote community input and feedback
   - chance to express my community's situation
   - feeling of working together with other communities
   - I've seen recreation shortage in communities.
   - informative, realize similar problems exist, and grants available
   - awareness of recreation activity situation
   - community councils and bands looked on as a whole
   - grant information (2)
   - awareness of where communities stand and where to go
   - understanding of CH&R's role
   - priorization of concerns
   - need to do community assessment
   - finding out unique conditions exist depending on geographic location.

2. How could this conference be improved?
   - delete wine and cheese/more question time
   - make it longer - 2 or 3 days (5)
   - funding up front (2)
   - more time with government leaders (3)
   - was acceptable
   - more discussion time (2)
   - more time for resolutions/recommendations/major concerns
   - no money for meals
   - have two conferences per year (2)
   - similar remotes put together versus districts
   - no comments (2)
   - more advance notice
   - better planning future time
   - was great, needed more discussion time.

3. Based on the information shared at this workshop, will recreation change in your community? If yes, how?

- If recommendations are carried through, yes. If not, square one repeats. (4) If yes, community will have a more direct/immediate say in programs, their enactment and conclusion.
- I hope so.
- Yes.
- Yes, if we get facilities. (2)
- Yes, it should become a priority.
- Don't know. Will share info at community.
- More than likely. If worked at.
- More awareness on activities that can be implemented.
- Yes, setting up a recreation committee is my first task.
- Yes, by working together and hopefully getting a recreation director. (2)
- Yes, more access to programs. (3)
- Yes, more organized activities.
- Yes, more awareness activities in community and get more recreation members together more often.
- Yes, if recommendations followed and funding made available to hire recreation directors in communities.

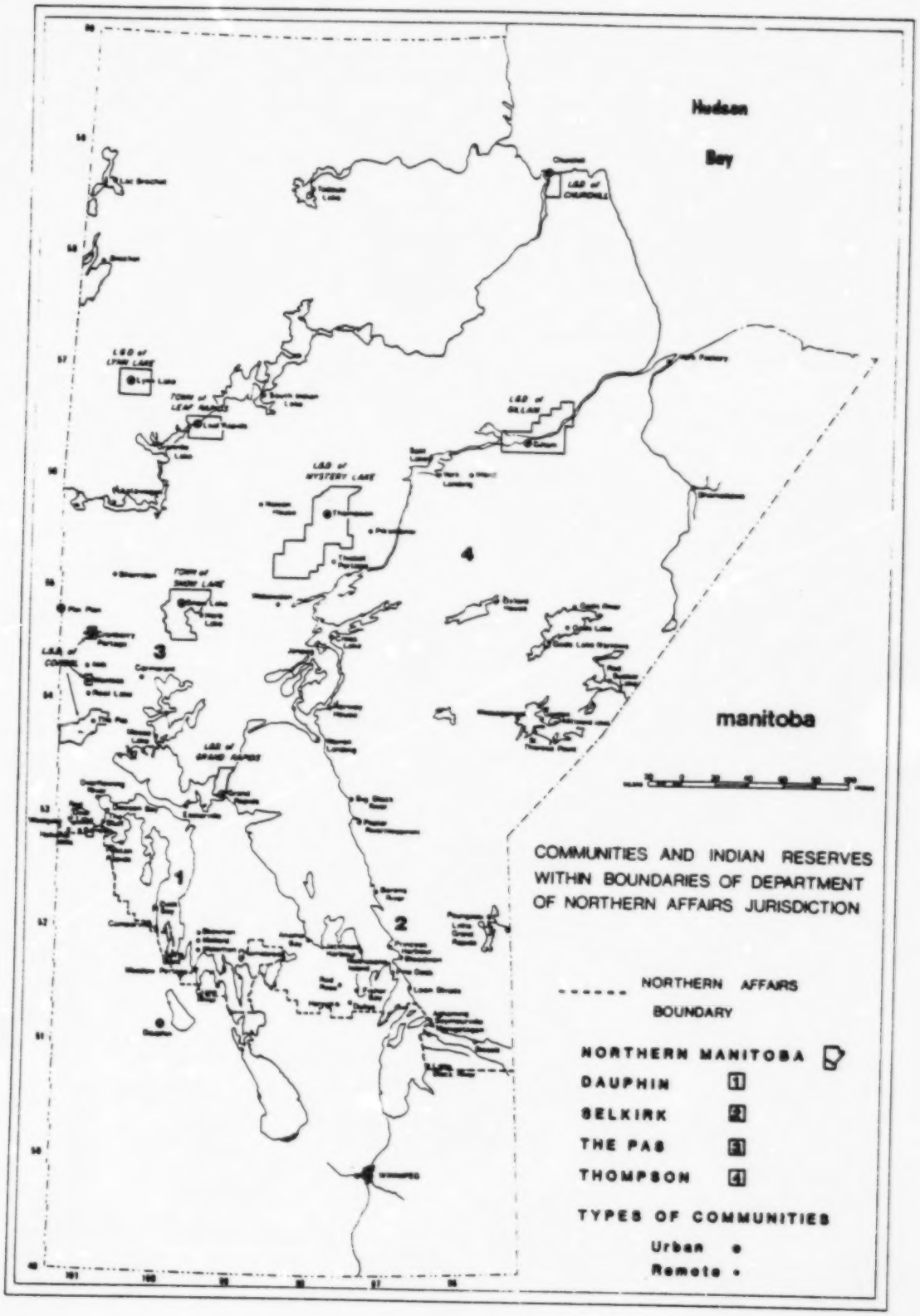
4. Other Comments

- Expenses up front.
- Thank you for opportunity to express concerns.
- Look forward to another meeting.
- Good donuts, wine and cheese. Great job.
- Thank you. (3)
- This type of conference should continue. Especially with the Ministers.
- Have yearly conference. (2)
- No comments. (6)
- Good workshop, lots of good recommendations. (2)
- Enjoyed the two days and learned a lot.
- I am glad I attended.
- Need to ensure follow-up done.
- More workshops. Also, need regional recreation director to deliver programs and awareness dissemination to isolated areas.

APPENDIX H

PARTICIPANT LIST

Yolanda Ducharme	- Cormorant
Dion McIvor	- Cross Lake Community Council
Ron Monias	- Garden Hill
Steve Wood	- Garden Hill Band
Anita Burton	- God's Lake Narrows Community Council
Arnold Ballantyne	- Grand Rapids Band
Kevin Beardy	- Grand Rapids Band
Don Pronteau	- Grand Rapids L.G.D.
Salina Arthurson	- Grand Rapids L.G.D.
Sarah Cook	- Grand Rapids L.G.D.
Claurie MacKenzie	- Granville Lake
George MacKenzie	- Granville Lake
Louise Paddock	- Island Lake Community Council
Patti Griffith	- Island Lake Community Council
Elias Martin	- Moose Lake Band
John Campbell	- Moose Lake Band
Leonard Nasecapow	- Moose Lake Band
Lloyd Easter	- Moose Lake Band
Brenda Martin	- Moose Lake Community Council
Ed Primrose	- Nelson House Band
Joe Duvall	- Nelson House Community Council
Anthony Apetagon	- Norway House Band
Brian Cromarty	- Norway House Band
Charlie Balfoure	- Norway House Band
Charlene Ducharme	- Norway House Community Council
Don Godwin	- Norway House Community Council
Tommy Weenusk	- Oxford House
Paul Weenusk	- Oxford House Band
George Redhead	- Shamattawa
Cyril Perry	- Sherridon Community Council
David Linklater	- South Indian Lake
Jack Dysart	- South Indian Lake
Ahab Flett	- Split Lake Band
Margaret Beardy	- Split Lake Band
Victor Spence	- Split Lake Band
Bernard Wood	- St. Theresa Point Band
Fabian McDougall	- St. Theresa Point Band
Celestin Thorassie	- Tadoule Lake
Joe Thorassie	- Tadoule Lake (Churchill Indian Band)
Lou Moodie	- The Pas Band
Bob McCleverty	- Thicket Portage
George Beardy	- York Landing
George Ponask	- York Landing (York Factory Band)


Hudson
Bay
manitoba
COMMUNITIES AND INDIAN RESERVES
WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF DEPARTMENT
OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS JURISDICTION
NORTHERN AFFAIRS
BOUNDARY
NORTHERN MANITOBA
DAUPHIN 1
SELKIRK 2
THE PAS 3
THOMPSON 4
TYPES OF COMMUNITIES
Urban
Remote

APPENDIX J

COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

COMMUNITY	POPULATION (1985)
Brochet	315
Cormorant	482
Cross Lake	581
Easterville	230
God's Lake	112
Grand Rapids	250
Granville Lake	77
Ilford	178
*Island Lake	86
Moose Lake	580
Nelson House	108
Norway House	723
Pikwitonei	210
Red Sucker Lake	54
Sherridon	173
South Indian Lake	845
Thicket Portage	198
Wabowden	660

*Stevenson Island

INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMUNITY	POPULATION (1988) TOTAL	ON RESERVE AND/OR CROWN LAND
Brochet (Barrensland Band)	456	325
Cross Lake Band	3203	2418
Easterville (Chemawawin Band)	673	520
Garden Hill Band	2142	1953
Gillam (Fox Lake Band)	511	274
God's Lake Band	1427	1088
God's River Band	324	303
Grand Rapids Band	538	350
Ilford (War Lake Band)	132	71
Lac Brochet (Northlands Band)	568	500
Moose Lake Band	582	494
Nelson House Band	2725	2050
Norway House Band	3525	2727
Oxford House Band	1465	1308
Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb Band)	1651	1346
Red Sucker Lake Band	465	452
Shamattawa Band	703	652
Split Lake Band	1651	1174
St. Theresa Point Band	1901	1797
Tadoule Lake (Churchill Band)	484	236
The Pas Band	2194	1729
Wasagamack Band	808	764
York Landing (York Factory Band)	592	308

Programs urged to fight drugs, booze

Northerners turn to drugs, drinking due to lack of recreational activities, Tories told

By Bob Lowery
Special to the Free Press

THOMPSON — Recreactional programs are needed to combat drug use and drinking before they become northerners' favorite activities, Tory cabinet members were told yesterday.

For the first time, 31 representatives from 43 northern Indian reserves and remote communities were given a chance to tell members of the Manitoba cabinet what they thought of the effectiveness of the government's cultural and recreation program.

Culture Minister Bonnie Mitchelson told the northerners that the two-day meeting, which ended yesterday, was held to learn first-hand what the northern people consider their greatest cultural, social and recreational needs.

Joe Thorassie of the Churchill Dene Indian band at Tadoule Lake, more than 1,300 kilometres north of Winnipeg, said his community has a growing drug problem especially among teenagers.

"They have nothing to do in our long winters. We have nothing in the way of recreation facilities," Thorassie said.

"All we have is a 26-foot by 40-foot house that has been converted into a meeting place, but it can't hold all our 300 band members. We badly need a gymnasium."

Thorassie added that the only winter recreation was a patch of clear ice out on the lake.

Lou Moody, recreation director of The Pas Indian band, said that drugs and drinking are just symptoms and the cure is adequate recreation facilities.

During a workshop, the community representatives were asked what type of recreation goes on in their areas. They said it ranges from bingo to volleyball, ice hockey, jigging, square dancing, aerobics, curling and, in some cases, gardening.

Norway House community recreation director Charlene D'Aoust said her mother, who talks to students in the school, has been instrumental in creating 102 gardens.

Band and community leaders praised the University of Manitoba, which has a fly-in program to instruct the youth in a variety of sporting activities during the summer.

However, Mayor Don Godwin of Norway House and Mayor Bob McCleverty of Thicket Portage turned down a suggestion by Mitchelson that U of M students would be available to research the recreation needs in the north.

The mayors explained that there are plenty of people in the communities who can do the research. Band councillor Bernard Wood of Ste. Therese Point proposed a task force of northerners be set up to do the job.

During one workshop, the delegates listed a number of recommendations they said would make the department's programs a lot more effective.

Top priority was given to the appointment of paid recreation directors in all 41 communities. Currently, only four have full-time paid directors.

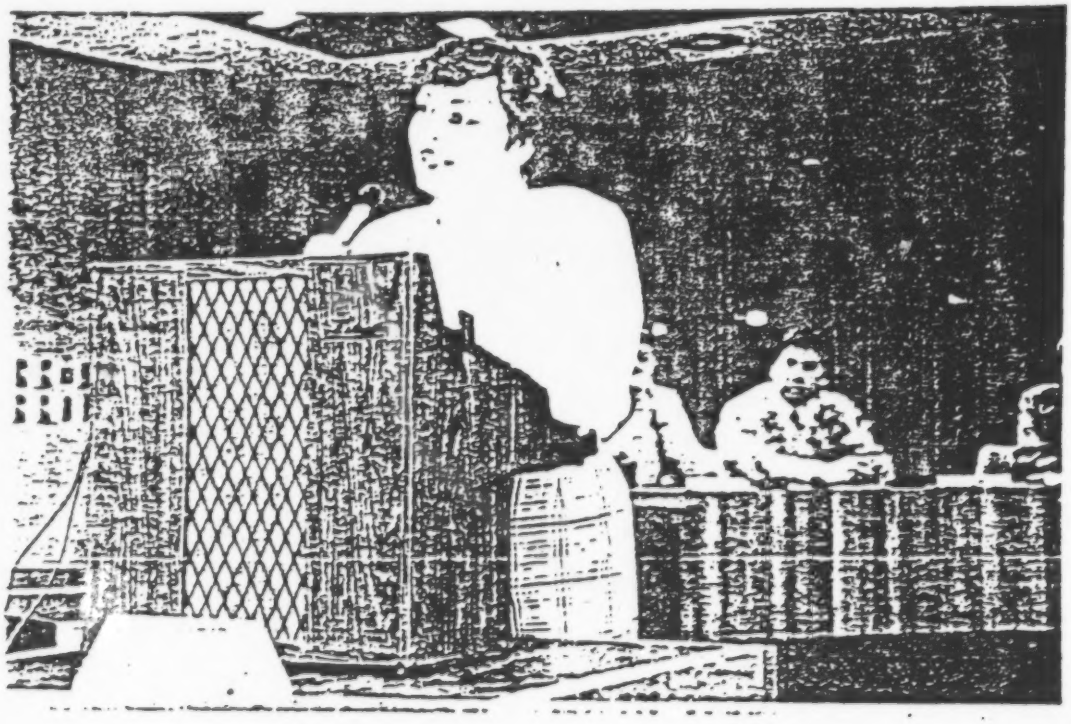
They proposed salaries of between $15,000 and $20,000 a year with a northern allowance of $4,000.

APPENDIX L

NICKEL BELT NEWS

lume 28 Number 35A THE NICKEL BELT NEWS, Thompson, Manitoba Monday March 6,

Northern recreation conference opened by Minister Bonnie Mitchelson & Minister Jim Downe



swimming so that they in turn could teach the course in their home communities.

Both Brian Cromarty of Norway House and Joe Tharassi of Tadoule Lake pointed out that some of the communities fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. They went on to point out that federal departments have told them that there is no money available for recreation. They both inquired of the ministers how far they were willing to go out of their jurisdiction. Downey said that there was certainly a need for coordination and development needed in these situations. He added that the province keeps ongoing negotiations with the federal government and this could be one area that would be addressed. He added that he would sooner spend the available resources to keep people from getting into trouble than spend them once they do on such things as policing and the courts.

Mitchelson said that she was excited about working with other departments in the government and she felt that this was a positive step. Mitchelson added that while it was a positive step it was only the first step in the right direction.

The workshop portion of the meeting took place Friday which looked at the communities needs. Out of the workshop a list of recommendations was brought forward. Topping the list of recommendations was that all remote communities should have a recreation director with a budget. Donna Henry, spokeperson for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, said that basically what the communities were asking for was that they have a recreation director that was able to earn a living wage instead of the volunteer help that is now being enlisted.

Henry said that this recreation director could be a position which would require the individual to spend half the time on community recreation and the other half of the time in school recreation. While the idea itself was not talked about at the workshop it was brought up to the ministers by Bob McClaverty of Thicket Portage.

Along this line, Henry said that one of the most exciting issues discussed was the sharing of facilities and resources. At the present time guidelines discourage the sharing between communities. Henry said that while the provincial government has declared a willingness to work with other departments this has to be taken a step further. Henry said that the general consensus was that the cooperation had to extend between levels of government.

The second big recommendation from the workshop was that grants be more adaptable to the communities to which they are going. One case was the Manitoba Community Places Grants which were felt to be geared more to southern communities.

It was also felt by the delegates that traditional activities were not receiving the appropriate funding. Henry said that the delegates put forward a great desire to have things like winter carnivals that

Continued on page 2

The Provincial Minister of Culture Heritage and Recreation, Bonnie Mitchelson, and the Minister of Native and Northern Affairs Jim Downey were in Thompson Thursday to open a northern recreation conference.

Mitchelson told those that are directly responsible for the delivery of recreational services in the northern communities that she was willing to work with the native and northern affairs minister to insure improved recreational delivery. Mitchelson defined recreation as an activity that puts free time to good use. She pointed out that presently not all free time is being used on positive activities and she feels that by better delivery of recreational services energies can be channeled to more positive use. Mitchelson admitted to the delegates that she was not totally versed in the problems of northern communities and she added that she welcomed the chance to broaden her horizons.

Mitchelson said that she felt that success of improving the recreational activities in northern communities depended on the combined effort of the people involved, local government, provincial government and in some cases the federal government. She also told northern leaders that she wanted to hear what their needs and priorities were for their individual communities.

Jim Downey the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs said that the commitment by local people was definitely in place. He said that the government is not looking at building elaborate and costly facilities as they to have a limited amount of money.

In a question and answer period after the opening statements Bernard Wood of St. Theresa Point brought forward the problem of Community Places Grants which requires to see some progress on a project before spending any money. Wood pointed out that because of the limited time frame which that community can get material into the community they lose the grant money because of a lack of carry over to the next year.

Mitchelson said that she was aware of some of those types of problems and told Wood that the guidelines were in the process of being changed. She also added that extensions have been given out to communities that have valid reasons for not being able to proceed with construction of a project and she said that she was sure that if Mr. Wood had a specific case in mind he should send a letter to her office explaining the situation.

Mitchelson went on to point out that other changes in the Community Places Grants were also being discussed. Those changes include the raising of the $75,000 top end funding and a relaxation of the 50-50 guideline. However, she did point out that these changes may come into place in the next fiscal year and not in this year.

Louise Paddock, of South Indian Lake, inquired about financial cutbacks to recreation in northern areas. Paddock was especially concerned about the northern swimming program. Mitchelson said that not only were there no cutbacks planned but also that she too felt that the northern swimming program was important. The minister went on to say that she wants to people in the northern communities increase their level of

Northern recreation conference continued from page one

promote these types of activities be recognized as valid recreational activities.

The delegates also requested a follow up meeting which would take place in about a year. There was also a desire that more involvement of the chiefs and councillors of the the communities take place at this meeting. It was felt that at this meeting a constructive review at what has been accomplished over the year could take place..

Henry said that a report of the workshop session will be sent to all the chiefs as well as the minister within the next couple of months.